C. 38. a. 25.

LONDON
Printed by NICHOLAS OKES. 16[illegible]

I believe this little book to be unique: see what is said in print inside the cover. It belonged once to Mr Halliwell who sold it to Lord Ellesmere (whose ancestor, the first Lord, is mentioned in it with great praise in several places) and Lord Ellesmere gave it to me as it illustrates a curious piece of stage history in reference to a short play called "England's Joy" composed by Richard Vennar or Vennard (as he spelt his name in a letter to Lord Ellesmere in 1609) who is not to be confounded with the antagonist of Taylor the Water-poet, but an entirely different person, whose name was Fennor. Vennard was an early autobiographer in this little work, beginning with his birth at Salisbury & ending shortly before 1614, when he speaks of himself as "in years sufficiently aged" and wise. He relates many of his adventures, and it is clear that he was a capricious, wrong-headed man who, having left all his property to his father John Vennard, a Justice of Peace of Wilts. It appears that owing to his book show of "England. Joy" he obtained that nickname, against which he very angrily protests.

An Apology:

WRITTEN,

By RICHARD VENNAR of Lincolnes Inne, abusiuely called

Englands Ioy.

To represse the contagious Ruptures of the infected Multitude, who hauing diseased stomackes of their owne *make the world beleeue, they cast vp others poyson.*

AND DEDICATED

To the same pur-blinde Multitude, who feede with Spectacles to make their meate seeme bigger.

As hoping, not altogether

Vnworthy the perusall of the *Noblest Iudgements, who may hence either finde reason to censure others modestly, or sustaine their owne wrongs lightly.*

LONDON
Printed by NICHOLAS OKES. 1614.

BRITISH MUSEUM

AN APOLOGY WRITTEN BY *RICHARD VENNAR* of Lincolnes Inne, abusiuely called, *Englands IOY.*

DEDICATED,

To the Pur-blinde *Multitude that feede* with Spectacles to make *their meate seeme bigger.*

IT was a wise saying of King *Agesilaus*, concerning the praise of ill

men, that the manners of the commenders were to be expected in the commended: from which I haue often tooke occasion to comfort my vniuſt ſufferings, when I conſidered the calumnies of my rude aduerſaries, would (at leaſt to better iudgements) diſtinguiſh mee from a chicken of their owne brood: Neither could I vouchſafe to publiſh any defence of my former actions, though prouoked by the rough tongues of the beaſt *Multitude*, ſo long as I conſidered wiſe men could not bee ignorant of the ſaying of the wiſeſt, *Prou.*18.*v.*3. *When the wicked commeth then commeth contempt, and with the vile man reproach*: Vntill finding bold-faced fame, who onely differs from a Harlot in this, *Mobilitate viget*

viget vireſq́ acquirit eundo, gathers ſtrength out of motion, and growes luſty by labour, had tooke breath from garlike noſtrils to infect ſkarlet bodies, and then cheefly when I thought the foole-world, had beene weary of his old bauble, hauing euery day ſo many new ones brought forth for him to play with, I could not be ſo incenſible to my much iniury, hauing experienced my Schoole Theame: *Veterem ferendo iniuriam invitus novam*, but caſt away all reſpects of difference that might priuiledge me from ſo vnequall a combat as this; and with the Noble Spaniard prouokt by a fellow of ignoble diſcent, who thus beganne his challenge, *I Roderigo de Tormes*, being as baſe a Raſcall as thy

ſelfe, doe ſummon thee *Alonzo*, &c. So I am content, hauing *Salomons* warrant, to anſwere a foole according to his fooliſhneſſe, leaſt he grow proud in his owne conceit.

Firſt, therefore that you may know, my birth promiſed me no ſuch competitors, I was ſonne to *Iohn Vennar* of *Salisbury*, Eſquire, a Commiſſioner in the Peace, a yonger brother I muſt confeſſe mee, as would elſe manifeſt it ſelfe by the ſequent ſtory, to make mee appeare that which I feare many of you are not, (though I wiſh you were) in condition a Chriſtian. Biſhop *Iewel* adminiſtred that Sacrament to mee, witneſſed by two Noble Earles of *Bedford* and *Pembrocke* deceaſed; The firſt part of my education committed

ted to Doctor *Hill*, from whose instruction, I proceeded to *Bayliol Colledge* in *Oxon*: being a fellow Commoner in that House two yeares; whence my desires carrying mee with the windy humour of trauell, I being yong, my father sent mee into France, attended by an *Italian* for my guide, and a seruing-man and a Page for my followers, *Henry de Valoys* being then King, in whose Court I purchased such respect, that I obtained his Letters to *Maximilian*, then Emperour, in my large commendation; where, after some stay, returning through *Germany* home againe, I forth-with admitted my selfe, one of *Lincolnes Inne*, The most Honourable Lord *Elesmere*, now Lord Chauncelour, being then Reader.

der. The fashion of my life, answering my birth, and former Education, so farre, that I dare, my most malicious detractors to paralel my Port and Habite with any Gentleman vnder the degree of Honourable, maintaining my selfe, and sixe men, with horses sutable, in that place.

Heere doe I see some *Puisne* shew his Teeth, comming out with a warme sentence that lies hote in his flesh yet: *Nec te collaudes, nec te culpaueris ipse, hoc faciunt stulti quos gloria vexat inanis*: To these I recite the deed of *Epaminondas*, remembred by *Plutarch*, who hauing ouercome the *Lacedemonians* in a bloudy warre, expecting the praise of his conquest, had the slaughter of his enemies much extenuated, by his vn-

gratefull

gratefull Countrimen, who being forc't to publiſh his owne praiſe, commanded the dead bodies ſhould not be buried together, but that euery Towne might ſeeke out their owne, by which ſearch, and particular number, the Generall was knowne, to the true demonſtration of his before obſcured victory.

I haue read a learned Moderne Writer, vpon that ſaying of Saint *Paul* in the *Acts: I was a Phariſie of the ſtricteſt Order, and brought vp at the feete of Gamaliel:* That where any good in vs may be neceſſary to exhortation, or of force to take away ſlander, we may, without preiudice, name it; helping, either to the maintaining of Truth, or abolithing a Lie. If ſo then, I hope

hope I haue double warrant for this *Apologie*, my deſert being ſuch, that I durſt with *Themiſtocles*, come vpon the Theater, and being demanded whoſe voyce hee would heare, anſwered, his that ſhould ſpeake his praiſes. For as the firſt part of my life was beneficiall to my ſelfe by my fathers bounty, ſo the remainder thereof, hitherto, hath beene ſo profitable to my country, euen to that inſencible beaſt mine aduerſary, that I may boldly affirme no man of my degree, in this Kingdome, hath with more danger of his perſon, and aduenture of his eſtate, brought equall benefite to his Country, but ſeeing my caſe is the ſame with the Phyloſophers, who falling in company among Theeues, and being ſodainely

dainely ouertaken with the Scoutes, and publicke Officers, ſaid one to another, if wee bee knowne, wee bee vndone; hee cryed out likewiſe, on the other ſide, vnleſſe wee bee knowne, I am vndone. To the intent therefore, I ſay, that I may bee the better deſcerned from theſe companions, I will firſt diſcouer them, by laying open the grounds vpon which they haue giuen iudgement of my Diſeaſes, which falling within no compaſſe of iudicious principles, I may the better giue you a touch of my pulſe, which I hope, to more ſenſible and ſteddy opinions, will ſufficiently plead my health.

The firſt wound then, that my fame receiued, was by a man that had the name of Law, to his

his profeſſion, which hee had purchaſed with prayer and faſting, for with much entreaty, and with teares, hee got certificate that hee had long enough combatted with ſlender Commons, to write Eſquire at Lincolnes Inne. This man that had onely wit to defeate mee of my Patrimony, though otherwiſe ſmall diſcretion, married my elder brothers widdow, my father yet liuing, who hauing intent to leaue his lands to her children, made a Deed of Guift to mee, of all his goods, to the valew of many thouſand pounds, not long after, hee paies Nature her Tribute, and by a ſuppoſed Will; my brother of the Law, in my abſence, poſſeſſeth himſelfe of the Eſtate before giuen vnto mee, in ſteed of

that

that portion, laying ſuppoſed forgery of that deed, to my charge, and further in malice, to weaken my eſtate, drawes mee into the Starre Chamber; the ſuite was long, my purſe of defence ſhort, my credite and innocency vnproportionable, what the one did ſtretch to, the other was too bad a Pay-maiſter for, ſo that I found many ſutes begunne er'e the firſt was ended: In briefe, Execution out-went Iudgement, the Kings Bench was elder brother to the Fleete, I had better defence for my eares, then my feete, which though I had heard long ill on all ſides, ſtood ſtill within the compaſſe of my cap: Though this were a reaſonable euidence to returne a verdict of not guilty on my ſide, yet ſince no leſſe

then

then Musket proofe, must ſerue againſt ſuch hot ſhots, you ſhall take notice I had a compoſition of one hundred and fifty pounds, which by long impriſonment I was enforced to accept of; whence, I hope the groſſeſt skull may draw this concluſion, *Crimes may oft bee pardoned, neuer rewarded*: To the meaneſt capacity, this ſore would ſeeme to haue his cure, but hard is my fate to beate that marke which *Alexanders* paraſite aduiſed his fellowes to brand the ſmotheſt face with, namely; *Ne metuerent quoduis crimen in quemuis intendere quamuis enim vulnus ſanetur manet cicatrix*: As much to ſay, that no man ſhould doubt to impoſe any crime to any man, for though hee heale the cut, the

skarre

skatre remaines: Which counsell *Erasmus*, not without good cause, cals the most pernitious that euer proceeded from diuill; and I haue made experience of it, for presently after my liberty receiued, vpon some report of my trouble, whose cause carried name enough of slander to those who onely tooke paines to heare my accusation, not answere. A youth of your owne traine, a head of the same Monster, in the shape of a Gentleman of the Lord Admirals, hauing counterfeited his Lords Hand and Seale, for the receite of fourty pounds out of the Store-house of Detford, takes a Chamber in Chancery-lane neere my house, where in short time hee tooke vpon him the name of sicke,

being, as you haue heard, not very ſound; in the midſt of his fained fit, hee ſends for mee, without witneſſe, deliuering mee the warrant for the money, and requeſts my paines in riding to receiue it, as I paſſed that way to my houſe at *Lewſham*, in Kent. Which proiect carried thus much ſafety to himſelfe, that if the ſumme were deliured, it was eaſily earn'd, if it miſcaried, it was eaſily anſwered; where my auowing was to bee auoided by his denyall, which falling vpon mee, with ſome amazement, brought full aſtoniſhment, in his confident abiuring: Heere was the prouerbe verefied, *An ill name, halfe hang'd*; The old skarre being worſe then a new hurt, to proue my imperfection; all, but my vnſpotted

vnſpotted conſcience, giuing mee ouer to the ſeuerity of cenſure, in which tryall, my tongue, vttering the free language of my heart, wrought ſo effectually on that Honourable Treaſurer *Burghlies* compaſſion, that with great iudgement, and happy ſucceſſe, a ſtraight examination of my counterfeit Marchant opened his ware-houſe, where I was found but a Porter, and bore onely the waight for a time, which with ſome other of the like commodity broke his necke for *Suſpenſus erat*, Hee was to you an example, brethren.

By this I may ſeeme, like a cunning Oratour, to haue produced the weakeſt imputations firſt, that their cleering might ſet the better gloſſe, vpon more

knowne defects; For who can excuſe my publique default of the Swan, where not a Collier but cals his deere 12. pence to witneſſe the diſaſter of the day? How ſhould I, without bluſhing, deny the name of *Englands Ioy*, who had ſo many Goſſips at my Chriſtening? Surely, this diuill muſt be caſt out at leaſure; you muſt vſe ſome patience to heare, and I rob you of a little more time to deliuer the circumſtance, which with indifferency heard, I aſſure my ſelfe will proue but a *Chimæra*, and either appeare but a winde, or *Ixions* monſter, at moſt, part man, part beaſt.

Conſidering then my vniuſt troubles had wrapt mee in many debts, and thoſe hardly ſatisfied, bythe former vnequal com-

poſition

poſition : ſuppoſe I had onely a younger brothers patrimony left me, my limbes and my wits, (the worſt Tenants a Cittizen can let houſe to) that to adde to my wants, I had the remembrance of former plenty; with the Steward in the Goſpell I could exclude my ſelfe from labour, and beggery was ſhamefull; I put new wings to my dull hopes, and reſolued to go for *Scotland*, perſwading my ſelfe that his Maieſties letters would, vpon the right conceiuing of my caſe, perſwade with the Lords of the Councell heere in *England*, to haue a hearing of my cauſe, the former agreement notwithſtanding.

My comming into *Scotland* was in *Anno* 1600. the 7. of *Auguſt*. where to my hearts Ioy, I

beheld his Maiesty, in triumph, riding towards the Church at *Edenborough*, to offer vp his hearty Sacrifice of Praise and Thankes-giuing, vnto that most High GOD, who had so wonderfully, and graciously, deliuered him from that hel-bred Treason of the *Gouries*, the most Noble and valiant Vice-counts, *Fenton* and *Haddington*, being the instrumentall meanes of his happy deliuerance, from that horrid danger; whose memorable seruices therein, deserues to bee recorded to posterity, euen with the most notorious examples of the most Noble Romanes, in the preseruation of their Prince and Country. The beholding of which Triumphes, together with the exceeding ioy of his Subiects, and his Maiesties

ieſties moſt gracious acceptance thereof, did ſo ſtirre vp my affection, that it moued mee to paſſion, which (though being there a ſtranger) I manifeſted by my teares, as outward ſignes of inward ioy. The next morning, following this bleſſed day, I writ a Prayer, in my bed, of Thankeſ-giuing for his Maieſties happy deliuerance; which prayer, without my priuity, was preſented to his Highneſſe by one Maiſter *Duncan Moore*, a Gentleman of *Scotland*, and one of the Guarde to the *French* King, whereupon I was ſent for, and graced by kiſſing his Royall Hand; after which, I attended his Highneſſe to Faulkeland, where after ſome ſtay, returning to *Edinborough*, I was there queſtioned with, by Maiſter

ſter *George Nicholſon*, then Agent for *England*, touching my Loyalty; and after, returning into *England*, and comming to the Court, then at *Richmond*, I was not onely apprehended and examined, but alſo committed for the ſame, as a dangerous Member to the State; ſo that in all my courſes, my actions haue beene miſtaken, and I vniuſtly cenſured.

This new gaule of my Impriſonment, grating vpon the tender skinne of my late hurt Reputation, made it againe to rankle, and become an eye-ſore to that barking breaſt the Multitude, that euer meaſure things by their euents: And, to ſay troth, I haue ſeldome hard a wiſe man that loſt commended, or a foole that wanne diſprai-

ſed,

ſed, but the ſucceſſe hath generally ouermaiſtred both opinion and report.

This was my entertainement in *England*, after my returne out of *Scotland*; which, neuertheleſſe, I tooke the more patiently, becauſe it was deriued from an innated loue in mee, to that Maieſty, which I truſted then ſhould afterwards bee my Soueraigne, which happy time is now come, and it is to me ſo great a ioy (without flattery bee it ſpoken) that what croſſe accidents of the world ſoeuer happen mee, I ſhall neuer diſeſteeme my fortunes in this regard, that after all the ſtormes of my malignant ſtarres, I haue neuertheleſſe liued to ſee theſe happy *Halcion* daies.

Thus liued I a long time as a

Bird

Bird in a cage, not fed like Birds at their keepers coſt, but as a hurt Deere in an encloſed ground, hunted with the continuall cries of the faſtidious and pittileſſe hel-hounds of a Iayle: Howbeit I neuer held my ſelfe ſo fatally vnfortunate as to expire my laſt breath in a priſon, for at laſt I got my freedome, and caſting vp my reckoning with Counters, wanting money both for that vſe and others, my minde became diuerſly diſtracted with plurallity of purpoſes, ſome times carried one way, ſome times another; the laſt, that I ſtood not leaſt vpon in reſolution, was a ſecond intendment for *Scotland*, but to this purpoſe there wanted Armes, or rather the ſinewes of Armes, money; I ſaw a daily

daily offring to the God of pleaſure, reſident at the Globe on the Banke-ſide, of much more then would haue ſupplyed my then want; I noted euery mans hand ready to feed the luxury of his eye, that puld downe his hat to ſtop the ſight of his charity, wherefore I concluded to make a friend of Mammon, and to giue them ſound for words, both being but aire, for which they ſhould giue double payment, to the intent onely, men of ability might make the purchaſe without repentance, and my ſelfe obſerue that wiſe rule of Phyloſophy; *Non fiat per plura quod poteſt fieri per pauciora*: My deuiſe was all ſorts of Muſique, beginning with Chambers, the Harpe of war, and ending with Hounds, the

the cry of peace, of which I was doubly prouided, for Fox and Hare.

The report of Gentlemen and Gentlewomens actions, being indeed the flagge to our Theater, was not meerely falcification, for I had diuers Chorus to bee ſpoken by men of good birth, Schollers by profeſſion; proteſting that the buſineſſe was meerely abuſed, by the comming of ſome Beagles vpon mee, that were none of the intended Kennell, I meane Baylifes, who ſeizing mee before the firſt entrance, ſpoke an Epilogue inſteed of a Prologue, this changed the play into the hunting of the Fox; which, that the world may know for a verity, I heere promiſe the next Tearme, with a true hiſtory of my

my life, to bee publiquely presented, to insert in place of Musicke, for the actes, all those intendments prepared for that daies entertainement: Which, seeing it must rest in your beliefes till then, I will bee content so long to weare your Apellation, preferring onely in this Imputation, so farre the part of an Apologist, that drawing the accident it selfe, without defence, into iudicious question, this Scoggins Crow, that hath filled so many mouths will proue but a Rooke. For suppose that the play was hist, was I the first Poet made my Clients penitents, let the burning pestle bee heard in my cause, which rang so dismally in your eares, and yet the Writer in state of Grace.

The

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The

The difference was, I preſented you with a Dumbe Show, and the Players ſay, that is alwaies as good as a bad act, neither could the coſt bee great, that for one twelue pence, afforded mirth for a Twelue-month after: At the higheſt rate, you lent mee but an after-noones hearing, the expectation being worth the money; ſince Phyloſophers ſay, that the ſweetneſſe of hope is beyond the enioying, and in this ſenſe, I bettered that daies trauell, the errour being your owne, that being ignorant of a Logitian, ſtile mee an Impoſtor, from which I am ſo farre, that the Law ſhall ſpeake for mee, which preſuppoſeth euery man good, till hee bee conuicted bad; And I preſume it came not within the

compaſſe

compaſſe of an inditement: The concluſion is this, I had too many Patrons for ſo ſlender a worke, and for that fault, this Apologie is my ſufficient anſwere. Neither is it ſtrange to haue ſo much mony for ſix verſes, ſince *Bonum quo communius eo melius.* And Poetry in a more legitimate age, hath beene held coſin-germane to goodneſſe, but were there no more holes in this veſſell, you might ſoone ſtop the leake.

I haue forgot the Inner-Temple (you will ſay) and I thinke many of you neuer came at it, where I moulted in my old age; The truth is naked, I can hardly finde a cloake for this tempeſt, I muſt profeſſe ingeniouſly, I call this an affliction, and that is neere a ſuffe-

rance

rance ſhould I ſay as I muſt, if I dare ſpeake truth, I felt iniuſtice; This I will ſay, my Iudges were my Executioners, and I neuer ſaw the Scale and the Sword pictured in one hand before, had I bene guilty of wrong to them, I muſt haue had a great opinion of my wit, or my power; on the other ſide, my knowne diſgrace from ſuch vnqueſtionable iudgments will hardly indure a plea of innocence, and for ignorance it will not ſaue mee, though a miſtaking of the matter, knowing my perſon needed no *quere* brought mee to feele that which they recompenc't with money, as an iniury: Which Maiſter *Touſe*, a Worſhipfull and graue Bencher of the Houſe, is a ſufficient witneſſe to, who paid it; ſo that this, the moſt mortall wound

wound in the eye of many, is but a *Mountebankes* poyſon, ſwelled with a toad, and heald with a Spider. Many ſee the hurt, whom I cannot acquaint with the cure: I therefore this auerre, that a ſumme of money was ſet downe, and paid mee, in ſatisfaction of that wrong done vnto mee; by the commandement of that moſt Honourable, Wiſe, and Learned Councellour of Eſtate, the now Lord Chancellour of *England*, who being himſelfe the principall flower of the Law, yeelds a ſweete ſmelling ſauour of his vertues to all the profeſſours thereof, leading them the way of right and equity by his iuſt example; if this bee true, as how can it bee otherwiſe, producing ſuch inſtances?

the fault lies in your incredulitie, not my honesty, for men vse not to giue satisfaction of right, but wrong; If this Position of Diuinity bee also true, as vnquestionable it is, that *Conscientia accusat vel condemnat*, I shall not feare sentence for this crime: But I am, *homo multorum scelerum*, you will obiect, and so many smoakes cannot be got without some fire: How can I hurry away with my Coach and foure horses from Sir *Iohn Spencers* accusation of mee, as was falsely alleaged, in stead of requitting an iniury, or confession of a wrong therein done to mee, the Fleete possest mee, I thinke the phrase suites mee, for neuer was distressed man so coniured, take this *ex confesso*, I was *coram iudice*, and committed,

ted, for the fact ſuppoſed, for fiue hundred pounds; And the Honourable Lord *Cooke*, now Lord chiefe Iuſtice of England, his name vſed for the money. Should I onely recite, for my ſelfe, the fable which *Æſop* told the men of *Delphos*, being vniuſtly to ſuffer death, I imagine it will not be from my purpoſe, which thus comes to you. A Country Gentleman hauing neuer beene in the Citty, and hearing ſome Courtier in the progreſſe, belike, vtter the commendation of the freedome, reſolued with himſelfe to ſee whether Truth was alwaies clad in purple, and for that purpoſe put a couple of Aſſes into his Cart, now called a Coach, and makes for the Citty; the beaſts being great enemies to ſmoake,

tooke a more open way, and being now ouertaken with night, the poore Gentleman finding himſelfe in an ineuitable place of danger, cries out, how vnwelcome art thou death, not for thine owne ſake, but for that thou art preſented to mee by ſuch ignoble and dull creatures? had I ſuffred by horſes, nay Mules, it had beene poſſible, to men of quallity, but falling by long-ear'd cattell, at the beſt, I can bee eſteemed but a Carrier.

Surely, good people, I am no better mounted, then was this Gentleman, my griefe is the ſame, for if I ſhould put you in the way, in ſteed of the oſtery you wold chuſe to bruiſe on Thiſtles, though your owne gummes bleed: though I be not free, I will not faile in my direction,

rection, howsoeuer, I am sure to finde you benighted.

There was a proiect in the time of Sir *Iohn Wattes*, his Maiorallity, for a Maske to bee presented, by the Citizens at Court, the Christmas following, at the marriage of the Lord *Hayes*, to the Daughter, and Heyre, of the worthy Lord *Denny*, wherewith I had acquainted the Kings Maiesty, who gaue a gracious allowance therto: for the furtherance whereof, the Noble-minded Lord *Mayor*, moued by a letter from the Recorder, Sir *Henry Mountague*, vnder his hand, promised, that if I could procure a thousand pound to bee tendred at his house in *London*, towards that businesse, hee would double it; fiue hundred pound whereof

Sir *Stephen Soame* vndertooke for mee, the other fiue hundred pound I moued to ſir *Iohn Spencer*, and going beyond my commiſſion, vſed an Honourable perſons name to him, not to lend me the mony, or to part with a groat, but rather for his ſake to further the intendment, by ſuch a tender to bee made and returned by his owne ſeruants. The Knight was wiſe, his wealth ſpoke no leſſe. Suſpition and VViſedome are ſiſters, you will ſay my name carried doubt enough in it; before the howre appointed for the tender, I was apprehended, carried before the Chiefe Iuſtice to bee examined, the truth of my meaning appeared by Sir *Stephen Soame*, who being ſent for to that purpoſe, cleared me before

fore thoſe Lords, and that Ho-
nourable perſon being preſent,
whoſe name I vſed, by free par-
don, purged me from that bold-
neſſe, thereupon I pleaded my
diſcharge, it may bee in too
rough a phraſe, I was taught
manners, And I hope, my bre-
thren, you will not lay this as a
ſinne to my charge, being your
ſelues yet to learne.

I lay long in priſon, not for
want of cauſe to be releaſt, but
in deſire to know the ground of
my reſtrainte: The point con-
trouerſed is the fault, I haue a
Knight for the fore-man of my
iury, who gaue vp his verdite of
not guilty to the inditement,
if I lay by it for want of ſureties,
for the good behauiour, rude-
neſſe is a leſſe ill, then couſe-
nage, of the one I haue proued

my ſelfe guiltleſſe, and from the
other I appeale to them which
know what prouokt authority
can doe; It was a iuſt wiſh,
though impoſſible, of the Poet
that deſired none to iudge, but
they that knew how to write, I
wiſh I had no more iudges, then
could tell how to reade: Igno-
rance is not onely an enemy to
Art, but to Vertue; *Saluabi-
mur ſi ſeparemur à cœtu*, ſaith
wiſe *Seneca*, it is your act make
mee condemned: well ſaid *Cice-
ro* of you the valiant rabble
you had good left hands, ill
right, your blowes fall without
defence; but as it is the eaſieſt
thing to accuſe, ſo you that
haue no Art in taking out a
hard leſſons, ſeldome cleere
any, at leaſt not without paſſion
which makes your eſtimation
the

the ſame it is, and my ſelfe from *Diogenes* ſearch, when I often heare my ſelfe calumniated by your impure gummes, wiſh I had a man to my accuſer, but ſeeing my deſire impoſſible, I haue of late imitated *Arcadio* the *Macedonian*, who forſaking his Country becauſe of *Phillip*, was ouertaken by a ſuddaine ſiege of his at *Delphos*, of whom the King demanding whether hee fled, anſwered to the Countrey, where no man knew *Phillip*; This, I ſay, hath cauſed mee to make my late abode, in the two Noble Counties of *Kent*, and *Eſſex*, of whom I may ſay, if any obiect, there are ſome of that brood there, ſure I haue met with none, but on the contrary, with many Gentlemen of great ranke, and quality, who like

like themſelues, did vſe me nobly, making thoſe Counties, by their generous conuerſation, ſeeme to me a Summer Garden, full of delight and pleaſure: But for that I may not be ſo vngratefull to thoſe worthy perſonages, there remaining, to mingle them vnder one Chapter, with the adulterate Seed, I will heere giue an end to the firſt part of this my Apologie, which is mine owne defence, and for the ſecond part, which is my merite, appeale from *Iewes* to *Feſtus*, and *Agrippa*; and with *Lentulus* who accuſed the ambition of *Pompey*, now defended by the acclamation of the multitude, cry out, *Acclamate quirites dum licet, iam enim impune non licebit.*

To

To all generous Persons, *whose births and qualities are the same.*

RIGHT Noble, and equall iudging Gentlemen, since our good names, and our liues haue but one ending, my selfe being not to bee acounted by this reckoning, amongst the liuing, haue plast you as at a Funerall, varlets before Squires, and Beggars before Knights.

I know it will seeme strange vnto you, that after so long a trance of fifteene yeares, I should now start vp with an Apologie,

Apologie, againſt ſo ranke gum'd an aduerſary, ſeeing it is not vnremembred of you, for an anſwere of high wiſedome, in one *Vatinius*, a Romane, who being taxed by the common accuſer *Caluus*, of many notorious crimes in the Senate, when euery man expected his reply, he vttered theſe words; *Fathers Conſcript, remember it was one Caluus accuſed mee*, and ſo ſate downe againe: For if vpon point of Duell, in matters criminall a Gentleman may haue the priuiledge not to anſwere a Raskall, in triall of his life; I know there cannot but lie the ſame exception in caſe of our fame and eſtimation; but as I haue beene content to commit folly with fooles, ſo it cannot miſbeecome mee, hauing nothing derogate

derogated from my birth, or education, to ſpeake to you, moſt generous friends, in your owne language; whom I willingly ſummõ to be of the Iury, where my intents and actions, ſhall receiue approbation, or cenſure.

Vnto the ſecond part then, of my diuiſion, which is my merite, a word out of date with thoſe good fellowes, and comes to neere the Lattine for them to put into true Engliſh: I ſay, & doubt not to proue, neuer man of my ranke, conſidering the late lightneſſe of my purſe, and now weakeneſſe of my friends, waded deeper to reach the generall good of my Country.

Firſt to beginne at thoſe places which cry for our charity, to deafe eares, I ſay the miſerable captiues in the Kings Bench, and

and the Fleete, hauing fixed in my minde the worthily regiſtred Motto of Queene *Elinor*, wife to our *Henry* the ſecond, who after long impriſonment, being releaſed by her ſonne, *Richard* the firſt, and made Regent of the Land, made a generall infranchiſment of all priſoners, whom murther, or excution for great ſummes, deteyned not; ſetting vnder her *Eſcuſchion* this verſe; *Non ignara mali miſeris ſuccurrere diſco.* So from mine owne miſeries, which is our trueſt Schoole-maiſter, learning to pitty others, I was one of thoſe, that with the aſſiſtance of the Noble Counteſſes, *Margaret* Counteſſe of *Cumberland*, and that Honorable & vertuous Lady, *Anne* Counteſſe of *Warwick*, her ſiſter, that furthered the late

Queenes

Queenes moſt gracious cõmiſſi-
on, for the ſpeedy enlargement
of all vnable debtors, aſſiſted
therein by theſe worthy minded
knights, *viz.* Sir *Stephen Soame*,
Sir *Iohn Wats*, Sir *Edmund Bow-*
yer, Sir *Thomas Hunt*, and Sir
Thomas Gardnar Knights; which
mercy being ſtopt, by the hand
of a ſeuere Iudge, I was not be-
hind hand in recording it to
our moſt compaſſionate now
King; whoſe ſpeedy re-grant
thereof, I doubt not in the ge-
nerall benefite of this Land,
will ſhortly ſhew it ſelfe: Thus
farre I dare boldly ſay I waded,
in effecting this charitable buſi-
neſſe, ſo farre, that by humble
petition, vnder the hands of the
priſoners of both places, ſecon-
ded by Certificate from thoſe
worthy Knights aboue-ſaid, be-
ing

ing Iuſtices in *Middleſex* and *Surry*; of my ſufficiency, meanes was made to the Right Honourable the now Lord Chancellour, that I might bee made Regiſter to the ſaid Commiſſion, and Solicitor of their diſtreſſed cauſes, of which place, as I ſtand in no diſpaire; ſo, may I attaine vnto it; I dare promiſe to leaue a memory behind mee of that integrity and zeale, ſhall ſet mee vpright againe in the world, lay the heauy headed monſter with double the malitious weight it doth vpon mee: But now no more of the Theoricke, let vs now to the Practick: it is GOD onely accepts deſires, and hee knowes mine, which if my ſins deny to come to act, yet I aſſure my ſelfe, my acts ſhall winne mee pardon:

Know

Know then, as my labour and furtherance hath not defaulted in things not yet perfected; so it tooke hold of leſſer actions, to make goodneſſe abſolute, not that I dare preſume to take from the exemplar charity of the Honourable Counteſſe of *Warwicke* deceaſed, whom to haue knowne were a ſufficient purgation of mee, from any baſe, or deiected courſe; So in her opinion (I ſay) had my now diſpiſed parts ſuch place, that ſhee wild mee to giue her a ground to worke ſome pyous act, with the greateſt good, and leaſt oſtentation that might bee, which in diſcharge of 34. impriſoned Gentlemen and men of quality, by her owne and ſingular bounty, through my truſt and diſcretion, was

effected: Neither would I haue any that reades this, thinke charity could be better employed; for ſurely, had oppreſſion crammed the priſons in King *Dauids* time, as in ours, hee would not haue ſaid; *Let my ſoule diſcend into hell*; meaning thereby, the contemplations thereof would ſtirre him to all goodneſſe and piety; but hee would haue ſaid, *Deſcendat anima mea in carcerem*, hee would haue walked a turne, or two, or a weeke, in the Goales and priſons of this Kingdome, being the true paralell of hell, where the wretched onely feele miſery, and thoſe that want helpe, are moſt loaden with cruelty.

There is no Nation in the world that holds men, for debt, in ſuch bondage, where the King

ſhall

ſhall looſe his Subiects (not in his defence, or in their Countries ſeruice) but ingaged vpon the rotten commodities of hard hearted Creditors, that there haue made many a father, childleſſe, that had not the power to make themſelues parents: It was ſeldome heard that wiſe men would commit valiant Soldiers to a coward Captaine; what are theſe but ciuill warres which ſwallow vp many braue Spirits, vnder the command of ſuch ſcoundrell Leaders, who onely take paines to bring theſe miſerable men into danger, and there leaue them.

Our honeſt, and moſt charitable Neighbours the Low-Country men, in my opinion, haue moſt Chriſtian-like order in this behalfe: If any man areſt

his debtor, hee finds him competent allowance during that reſtraint; Were this enacted with vs, I am ſure ſo many Noteries would not turne Scriueners, nor Scriueners bawds to Vſurers, nor Marchants heape vp their ſtained and ſoyled wares for yonger brothers; which, ſince they cannot vtter for money, they ſell for bloud, thruſting a weake commodity vpon an vnable debtor, either to make his bones, or his friends bonds repay their extortion. Of this the greateſt abuſe of my natiue Country, hath beene my chiefeſt endeuour for reformation: To which I call many men now by my meanes and trauell, at liberty to witneſſe.

Neither of late, can I forget heere the worthy to be mentioned

ned iuſtice, of a great pillar of this land, the late Earle of *Northampton*, who vpon my ſuite within this tenne months in the behalfe of an vnnaturally diſpoſſeſſed mother (by her owne ſonne) from her houſe and liuing, hauing no remedy by the ſtrict courſe of the common Lawes of this Realme; notwithſtanding by his Noble order, taken by his Maieſties commandement, this diſtreſſed Gentlewoman receiued her hearts deſire, in one fort-night, which had reſted whole yeares before afflicted.

But theſe are particular gratifications, where is the generall good you talke of, ſayes mine enemy, it fals vpon them in this due place.

When in the happy riſing of

our Northerne Starre, each loyall Subiect, in the ſpring of this faire promiſing ſeaſon, caſting for a happy crop in the enſuing Harueſt, brought ſeede to this new Tillage; I was not behind hand, though not of the ſame graine that others did, for many I ſaw take wheate from them to whom they returned tares, whilſt, on the contrary, I exchanged barley for fetches.

For in that firſt progreſſe, made by his Maieſty into my natiue Country, hearing the tunes of ſorrow amongſt ſo many iuſt cauſes of ioyfull acclamations, I laid myne eare to the noate, and perceiued where GOD had his Cry, the deuill alſo had his Kennell, the bankes were full, no maruell if the waters ouerflowed, the poore ſheepe were fallen

fallen into the hands of wolues, which like dogs of good ſeruice durſt yet, notwithſtanding, look vpon the Shepeheard; poore ignorance had ſwallowed many a foule bitte, the Crabbe ſmiled to ſee the Muſſell bite ſo hard at a ſtone, while hee pickt out his guts to ſtuffe her owne garbage; heere my conſcience awakt me, and told me what ſeruice I owed the ſoyle that firſt felt my weight, and gaue me breathing, though my ability was weake, the cauſe in it ſelfe was ſo ſtrong, that at my firſt complaint, made at *Wilton*, at the Earle of *Pembrookes* of thoſe abuſes, I procured from the Kings Maieſty, a Commiſſion, vnder his royall hand, directed to the right Honourable, *Edward* Earle of *Hartford*, Lord Lifetenant of

Wiltis and *Summerſet*, To the reuerent father in GOD, the Lord Biſhop of *Sarum*, Sir *Edmund Ludlow*, ſir *Walter Long*, Sir *Edward Penruddoke* knights, and to Doctor *Tucker*, and others, vpon whoſe due examination, of theſe crying oppreſſions; ſuch, and ſo many, horrible, inhumane, and barbarous tyrannies appeared to be ſuffred, by my innocent Countrey-men, that it would redound to the perpetuall ignominy of our Nation to ſet them downe; the rather, ſince by my good beginning, and the perſeuerance of one *Glaſter*, in Parliamēt, during the time of my wrongfull impriſonment, wrought by the moued ſupporter of that extortionous crew, that whole rabble of helhounds, was diſpierced, and all this

this Kingdome, for euer heereafter freed from that intollerable and vnlawfull anoyance, by expreſſe Edict from the King and Councell, the like ſeruice whereof hath not bene done, by any man, of my ranke, within this Kingdome.

But did my zeale heere end, no? ſurely, I haue an Engliſh heart yet liues, which conſidering the proneneſſe of many ſeduced wretches, to ſhake off their moſt eaſy yoake of ſubiection, and that the damned apparition of that neuer-to-be-forgotten Gunpowder-treaſon, had diſcouered the ſhame of our Nation; fearing, though the wound were laid open to the roote, yet it had ſweld farther in the vpper parts. I compoſed a briefe Treatiſe, containing matter

ter to retaine euery good Subiect in his due obedience, setting thereby forth the reward of a faithfull Subiect to his Prince, making seuerall exhortations therein to all Estates; which booke I dedicated to the Kings most excellent Maiesty: and with the approbation and especiall letters of the learned and most reuerend Iudges, *Walmesley* and *Doddridge*, I dispearsed the same through their circuite of *Surry*, *Sussex*, *Kent*, *Essex*, and *Hartfordshire*: Nether must I forget my more publicke deuice in picture and verse, describing *a Papist Dormant*, *a Papist Couchant*, *a Papist Leauant*, *a Papist Passant*, *a Papist Rampant*, and *a Papist Pendant*, it being foode to strengthen feebler bodies, how euer better constitutions may

may disdaine to swallow such weake morsels; as also the portratures of my Soueraigne, the Maiesticke Queene, and the memorable Prince, with a true Subiects prayer, inserted vnder it, in these verses, *viz.*

The GOD *of all Eternity,*
Preserue this Royall Vnity;
That they may breath
An euerlasting breath,
And those may pine in hell
That seeke their deaths:
Their States of blisse
Be Brittaines blessed story,
And giue their soules
A Crowne of endlesse glory.

Which were so accepted, of that reuerent Prelate, Doctor *Vaugham*, then Bishop of *London*, that I had his letters of ample commendation to publish them

them as well within the Citty of *London*, as through all his Dioces. Theſe (I ſay) howſoeuer in the eye of the high-flying Airy that breeds in our Clime (may ſeeme worthy neglect) had their vſe, both in the receiuer and the giuer, expreſſing my iuſt affection, & wel-wiſhing to the State.

Laſtly, as a more reall good, I muſt make knowne, that though I am in life ſingle, and in yeares ſufficiently aged, to carry my ſight to my graue, my thoughts were not barren, but with a purpoſe to leaue many thankefull heyres behind me, I drew a proiect for an hoſpitall to be founded at *Bath*, in memory of our *Nouember Deliuerance*, and in releife of ſuch decaied perſons, whoſe want of ability in purſe, might be no hinderance

rance to their ability in health; repairing to that blessed Fountaine and happy Iordan flowes in our Continent; then to the furtherance of which foundation, all my perticular employments and labours haue had no other scope, being by many Honourable personages so incouraged therein, that I rest yet hopefull of successe. To summe vp these my courses at the publique barre of your impartiall censure, most Free and Noble *Brittaines*, heere I make protestatation, that if any man can iustly taxe mee of sclander, deceipt, fraud, or cousenage, to the dis-reputation of any man, or detrement, to the value of one Crowne, I plead guilty to the former inditement; whereto if my informers keepe silence, as I know

know they muſt, I deſire, and not vniuſtly, to hold the ranke of my place and birth, with the fauour of all deſeruing Gentlemen, whom paſſion cannot ſway, and who know the tongues of this beaſt my enemy ought to haue no other credite then that of *Carbo* the Roman, who was ſo notorious a defamer, that whom hee moſt accuſed were held to bee moſt innocent; proteſting henceforward to be as dumb to their calumnies, as they are to goodneſſe: and ſo I humbly giue this defence of my life, into your able and Generous protections; and the thoughts of my ſoule, vnto his iudgement that, I aſſure my ſelfe, will free me from thoſe imputations, and in his mercy pardon my other infirmities: To whom I commend

commend you in my daily Orizons, and reſt;

The wel-wiſher and ſeruant to all vertuous mindes.

Richard Vennar.

FINIS.

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